

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 132358
ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW;DH
APPROVED BY AF -AMB. SCHAUFEELE
S/S-O: SSTEINER
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S:JCAHILL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 132358

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: RH, UK

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO DR. OWEN FROM SECRETARY VANCE

1. PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING LETTER DELIVERED TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SIGNED COPY WILL FOLLOW.
 2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR DAVID: I HAVE READ THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP FOLLOWING ITS FIRST ROUND OF DISCUSSION ON A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT WITH MUCH INTEREST. WE PROBABLY GOT AS MUCH AS COULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED
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FROM THE PARTIES, THOUGH NOT AS MUCH AS ONE MIGHT HAVE HOPED. THE APPROACH SEEMS TO ME TO BE A SOUND ONE WHICH WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO UTILIZE UNTIL WE HAVE MADE MORE PROGRESS IN BUILDING UP THE BODY OF AN AGREEMENT. I AGREE WITH THE REPORT THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO FLOAT A NEW PACKAGE BEFORE WE HAVE RECIEVED THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION. BUT I HOPE THAT EVERYTHING

POSSIBLE CAN BE DONE TO OBTAIN A PROMPT SUBMISSION FROM THE FRONT.

IN THE MEANTIME, WE CAN BE PUTTING OUR INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE HEADS TOGETHER TO WORK UP A PACKAGE WHICH WE THINK MIGHT HAVE THE BEST CHANCE OF ACCEPTANCE FROM ALL

THE PARTIES. IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF AFTER YOUR PRE-LIMINARY STUDIES ARE COMPLETED, MR. GRAHAM AND HIS GROUP CAME OVER TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS CONSTRUCTING THE NEW PACKAGE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE VARIOUS TRADE-OFFS WHICH SMITH FEELS HE NEEDS IN ORDER TO CONCEDE ON THE ISSUE OF UNIVERSAL ADULT SUFFRAGE. PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU FEEL THIS WOULD BE A HELPFUL NEXT STEP.

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU MAY BE CONSIDERING ANOTHER TRIP TO AFRICA YOURSELF. I THINK THIS IS A WORTHY IDEA AND SHOULD BE TIMED TO HAVE THE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS. I WOULD THINK, THEN, THAT IT MIGHT BE DELAYED AT LEAST UNTIL WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED THE NECESSARY NEGOTIATING PACKAGE. SINCERELY CYRUS VANCE. END TEXT.
VANCE

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